

28 DEC 1948

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FAR EAST

1. **CHINA: Peaceful turnover in Tsingtao expected**--Acting US Consul General Strong expresses the view that if US Marine units now in Tsingtao are not withdrawn until the majority of the Chinese Nationalist troops leave, the turnover to Communist authorities will be peaceful and there will be no need for the Marine detachment to remain ashore. Strong considers that because the bulk of the Tsingtao population realizes that the Communists will punish looters or saboteurs, the people will therefore remain quiet. Strong suggests that if a "significant number" of Nationalist troops remain, it will be desirable to retain a small group of "carefully selected and indoctrinated Marines."

S-TS

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NO CHANGE in Class. ☐☒ DECLASSIFIED

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